

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2018 IN THE ROBING ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD

PRESENT: Councillors S Cousins, B Deering, Dr Jaqueline Downs

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Joseph Whelan, Town Clerk; Dr Maria Iancu, Project Officer

510. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

511. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

512. THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

513. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

514. THE PROGRESS OF THE SELE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA PLAN

The Chairman commented that the Sele Neighbourhood Area Plan is making steps forward, however he admitted that the pace is not very fast.

It was discussed that the potential developers in the Sele area have presented their initial proposals to the East Herts District Council. The document, named "HERT3, Masterplanning: Archers Spring and Thieves Lane" was sent around to the members of the Housing and Transport group.

The Members made reference to the fact that the Sele Neighbourhood Area Plan project, via the Neighbourhood Plan and Action Plan documents, can inform on the genuine needs of the residents. This provides a sound basis for decision-making in regards to the allocation of the New Homes Bonus. It was added that the New Homes Bonus fund will be used primarily for smaller projects which cannot not be financed from other sources.

The Members considered that contact should be maintained with the Hertfordshire County Council in regards to improvement of walking and cycling routes in Sele to link with other parts of Hertford and beyond.

It was also discussed that there are no bus services from Sele for people starting work early in the morning and while bus companies decide their operating hours to maximise profits, such services are essential and should be supported with additional funding.

Next the Members discussed the proposal of PAPER A in regards to the additional writing-up costs for the Neighbourhood Plans. It was considered that a professionally-written Plan will bolster the interest of the community members in the project, speed up the process, and prevent the undesirable situation in which parts of the grant allocated by Locality would need to be returned. The Members unanimously agreed to pursue this option and allocate £2,500 for the service.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Working Party **noted** the report.
- b) The Working Party **approved** the Neighbourhood Plan writing-up costs.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.45.